

3 February 2021

Ventus Energy (NZ) Ltd
c/o VGA
Unit G-12, The "Zone-23" Complex, 23 Edwin Street
Mount Eden, Auckland, New Zealand



Attention: Glenn Starr (glenn@ventusenergy.co.nz)

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APPLICATION FOR TAUMATATOTARA WINDFARM

Dear Glenn,

Further to the receipt of your response to the further information request received by Council on 11 December 2020.

The Council review team has assessed the further information response in detail and have a number of questions of clarification arising from that s92 information package. Further details and clarification is required on the matters set out below and should be considered as an additional response to the 7 September 2020 s92 further information request.

The provision of this clarification is essential in order for Council to make a determination with respect to notification and further processing of the application.

Transportation

Explanation

Sufficient information has now been provided with respect to the trip generation and traffic data associated with the construction and operation of the windfarm. Confirmation of the transport route is required in order for clarity over the consent conditions and any mitigation that may be required.

1. Please provide confirmation of the transport route that will be utilised by the applicant to deliver the turbines, components and other infrastructure into the windfarm site. Please also provide the results of any bridge assessments that have been undertaken by the applicant for the selected route.

Ecology

Explanation

Appendix 4A (Ecology – Avifauna) does not provide any site specific information regarding species presence and habitat use on the site. Rather, it provides generalised statements on the behaviour and risk to species that may be present and draws conclusions regarding risk, based on those assumptions.

2. Please provide, for avifauna, the presence/absence of species and their distribution across the site in relation to preferred habitats.

Appendix 4A (Ecology – Bats) does not provide any site specific information regarding long tailed bat presence or habitat use on the site. Rather, generalised statements are provided on the likely distribution of bats if they are present and draws conclusions regarding risk based on those assumptions. The ecology and behaviour of the NZ long-tailed bat differs to that of a number of international species for which wind farm research has been undertaken. Given species differences and the Threatened

classification of the NZ long-tailed bat, I believe site-specific information is critical to determining the potential effects of the proposal.

3. Please confirm the presence or absence of bat activity at each of the turbine sites.

Noise

Explanation

Figure 1.1c of the Altissimo letter seems to include all dwellings in the vicinity irrespective of their assessment status. The figure should clearly identify those receiver locations where acoustic compliance is required, both in the figure and in the table.

4. Please identify all dwellings surrounding the windfarm where acoustic compliance must be assessed.

In order to undertake an assessment of effects, the hub height is an important aspect that should be available at the consenting stage. It is also noted that Figure 1.1c shows turbines 1 – 7 in pink and turbines 8 – 11 in blue, please clarify the difference in these turbines. We also note that the distances to dwellings from turbines 20 and 22 are shown when these turbines are to be deleted. Please clarify.

5. Please identify all turbine locations, including hub height as an absolute height.

For an alteration of consent, the noise level from the altered wind farm layout/height should be predicted to determine both compliance with the conditions put forward by the applicant, and the change in noise level compared with the previous application. Deferring predictions to a post-consent stage does not confirm that compliance is achievable. We agree with the suggested post-installation reporting put forward by Altissimo, but would expect that noise levels are predicted at this stage of consenting to ensure sufficient information is available to determine future compliance.

6. Please confirm the predicted noise levels at the assessment positions.

Landscape

7. Please provide a more detailed analysis and individual effects ratings for each view location so that the difference in effects on different locations can be better understood.

I also note that we are still waiting on feedback from the applicant with respect to question 1 of the further information letter in relation to tangata whenua consultation.

Please contact Chris Dawson, BBO who is processing this application on behalf of Waitomo District Council on 0275 333 899 or cdawson@bbo.co.nz if you have any questions.

Yours faithfully



Terrena Kelly
General Manager – Strategy and Environment